

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 00389 151705Z

43

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 EB-03 RSC-01

/041 W

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O 151630Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6985

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHNES 389

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS TO OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

EO 11653: GDS

TAGS: MARR EAIR GR TU

SUBJECT: FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS OVER AEGEAN SEA

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A DISCUSSION MONDAY NIGHT THAT EUR/SE DIRECTOR BILL EAGLETON AND I HAD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS (REPORTED SEPTELS), THE LATTER AT ONE POINT MADE A BRIEF PASSING REFERENCE TO FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS OVER THE AEGEAN SEA. EAGLETON HAD INDICATED THAT HE WAS TRAVELLING ON TO ANKARA, AS WELL AS OTHER POSTS IN CONNECTION WITH HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THIS AREA. BITSIOS HAD BEEN EXPRESSING VIEWS ABOUT THE OVERALL STATE OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS (SEPTL) AND SAID THAT THE GOG WAS LOOKING FOR SIGNS THA TURKEY SHARED GREECE'S DESIRE FOR A NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. BITSIOS SAID THAT GREECE WAS SEEKING TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF "DETENTE" WITH TURKEY, BUT THE TURKS WERE EVINCING VERY LITTLE INTEREST.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, BITSIOS SAID, GREECE THOUGHT IT WAS TIME-INDEED, FAR PAST TIME -- TO LIFT THE FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS OVER THE AEGEAN. HE SAID THE GERMANS WERE "ON HIS BAK"

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00389 151705Z

ALL THE TIME TO TRY TO FIND SOME KIND OF SOLUTION. ICAO

HAD SOME TIME AGO SUGGESTED A COMPROMISE WHICH GREECE FOUND ACCEPTABLE AND GREECE WAS READY TO COOPERATE WITH TURKEY IN LIFTING THE RESTRICTIONS. HOWEVER THE TURKS SEEMED UNWILLING TO BUDGE. BITSIOS ASKED EAGLETON WHETHER HE WOULD BE INTERESTED OR PREPARED TO RAISE THIS MATTER WHEN HE SAW TURKISH OFFICIALS IN ANKARA.

3. EAGLETON INDICATED HIS FAMILIARITY WITH THE PROBLEM BUT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GERMANS WERE PURSUING THIS MATTER IN ANKARA. HE WAS NOT SURE IT WOULD BE EITHER APPROPRIATE OR WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE A SUITABLE OCCASION TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ANKARA. HOWEVER, EAGLETON INDICATED HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS SUGGESTION AND LET HIM KNOW IF ANYTHING ON THIS SUBJECT TRANSPIRED WHILE EAGLETON WAS IN ANKARA.

4. COMMENT: THIS SEEMED MORE LIKE A SUPR-OF-THE-MOMENT THOUGHT OF BITSIOS RATHER THAN ACAREFULLY CALCULATED PROPOSAL THAT THE US BECOME MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. WE DID NOT DWELL ON THIS SUBJECT MORE THAN A MOMENT OR TWO AND BITSIOS SEEMED TO BE POINTING TO IT AS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE TURKS.

5. EAGLETON HAS TRAVELLED ON TO ANKARA TODAY AND HAS NOT SEEN THIS MESSAGE. IT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION IN ANKARA.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SITUATION, FLIGHT CLEARANCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS OVER AEGEAN SEA  
**TAGS:** MARR, EAIR, GR, TU, (EAGLETON, BILL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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